Releasing watershed development projects

273. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra have requested to release 1000 watershed development projects under DPAP and IWDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many projects are under consideration of Government and by when they will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A NARENDRA): (a) to (c) A proposal was received from the Government of Maharashtra to sanction an additional 1000 watershed projects under DPAP to Maharashtra State. New projects under DPAP are sanctioned to the programme States following a criteria that includes DPAP coverage in the State, performance of the ongoing projects, budget availability, etc. Accordingly, during this year 2004-05 a total of 2550 new DPAP projects have been sanctioned to 16 programme Stales out of which Maharashtra was sanctioned 303 projects.

Raising the number of days for employment under NREGS

274. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVEL OPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme provides employment for hundred days in a year per person;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Agriculture Experts have asked Government to raise the number of days for employment under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government on the suggestions of Agriculture Experts on NREGS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004, envisages provision of at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to rural poor households whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work More than one adult members can work under the proposed Scheme subject to the overall household entitlement

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Appraisal of employment generation programmes in the rural areas

275. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether appraisal of the status of implementation of various employment generation programmes in the rural areas in the State of Jharkhand envisaged in the Tenth five Year Plan, has been carried out;

(c) if so, the details and the status, scheme-wise including number of families brought above the poverty line; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development on a continuous basis undertaken appraisal of the implementations of various employment generation Programmes in the rural areas of the Jharkhand through various Monitoring Mechanisms Besides the Programmes are also periodically evaluated through Concurrent and Quick Evaluation Studies and Impact Assessment Studies in different districts including Jharkhand.